

PRESIDENT SMITH, DISTINGUISHED GUESTS, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN!

*Ud. Manning*

IT IS INDEED A PRIVILEGE FOR ME TO BE A PART OF THIS CEREMONY TODAY BECAUSE IT HONORS A PERSON WHO HAS MADE SUCH A TREMENDOUS CONTRIBUTION TO EAST CENTRAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE OVER THE PAST FORTY YEARS.

MR. OVID S. VICKERS, CHAIRPERSON OF THE COMMUNICATIONS AND FINE ARTS DIVISION AT THIS INSTITUTION, EARNED THE BA, MA, AND ED.S. DEGREES FROM GEORGE PEABODY COLLEGE IN THE FIELD OF ENGLISH. AFTER TEACHING ONE YEAR ON THE HIGH SCHOOL LEVEL IN GEORGIA AND SERVING TWO YEARS IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY, HE HAS EFFECTIVELY USED HIS CREDENTIALS TO TEACH AND MOLD THE LIVES OF THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE WHO HAVE STUDIED SPEECH, DRAMA, COMPOSITION, AND LITERATURE OVER HIS FOUR-DECADE CAREER AT THIS INSTITUTION. BESIDES HIS TRADITIONAL CLASSES, HE HAS TAUGHT HONORS COURSES, CHAIRED THE HONORS PROGRAM, AND LED IN ESTABLISHING AND TEACHING LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT CLASSES. HE WAS CERTIFIED FOR THE LATTER RESPONSIBILITY UNDER A GRANT FROM THE W.W. KELLOGG FOUNDATION THROUGH THE SPONSORSHIP OF PHI THETA KAPPA.

MR. VICKER'S PASSION HAS ALWAYS BEEN EDUCATING STUDENTS AND HE HAS EARNED THE REPUTATION THAT HE ACCEPTS NOTHING LESS THAN THEIR BEST WORK AND EFFORT. HE IS A MASTER TEACHER, IS VERY KNOWLEDGEABLE, AND HAS THE ABILITY TO INJECT JUST THE RIGHT AMOUNT OF HUMOR INTO WHAT HE DOES. THIS COMBINATION HELPS TO ACCOUNT FOR HIS EXTRAORDINARY POPULARITY AND SUCCESS WITH HIS STUDENTS. HE HAS CONSISTENTLY PUT THEM FIRST AND FOREMOST IN HIS CAREER. FOR HIM, NOTHING MEASURES UP TO THEIR LEARNING AND BEING SUCCESSFUL IN THE MARKETPLACE. CONSEQUENTLY, HE HAS TAUGHT FOUNDATION COURSES TO MANY SCHOLARS WHO NOW FILL IMPORTANT POSITIONS IN COLLEGES, UNIVERSITIES, AND THE BUSINESS WORLD.

OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM MR. VICKERS HAS BEEN AN EQUALLY ESTEEMED AND PRODUCTIVE INDIVIDUAL. HE HAS SERVED AS PRESIDENT OF THE MISSISSIPPI COUNCIL OF TEACHERS OF ENGLISH AND WAS CHOSEN AS COLLEGE ENGLISH TEACHER OF THE YEAR IN 1990. HE HAS BEEN SELECTED AS INSTRUCTOR OF THE YEAR BY THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION OF EAST CENTRAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE AND HAS BEEN HONORED AS AN OUTSTANDING TEACHER BY THE MISSISSIPPI LEGISLATURE. HE IS A PROLIFIC WRITER AND HAS BEEN PUBLISHED IN SUCH

**CONVOCATION**  
**to**  
**Honor**  
**Mr. Ovid S. Vickers**  
**in the Naming of the**  
**OVID S. VICKERS**  
**Fine Arts Center**



**Saturday, May 6, 1995**  
**2:30 P.M.**



## PROGRAM

Prelude .....	ECCC Brass Ensemble
Processional .....	Prelude to Die Meistersinger Wagner
Welcome to Guests .....	President Eddie M. Smith
Invocation .....	The Reverend Rick Brooks
Introduction of Speakers .....	President Eddie M. Smith
Speaking to honor Mr. Vickers:	
Opening Commendations .....	Mr. V. C. Manning Chairman, Board of Trustees
Additional Commendations .....	Dr. Richard C. Ethridge
Additional Commendations .....	Dr. Thomas Richardson English Department University of Southern Mississippi
Additional Commendations .....	Dean Phil A. Sutphin
Concluding Commendations .....	President Eddie M. Smith
Response .....	Mr. Ovid S. Vickers
Benediction .....	Dr. Richard C. Ethridge
Recessional .....	Prelude to Act Three Lohengrin by Wagner

*A formal dedication ceremony will be held immediately following the recessional in front of the building to be dedicated. A reception will follow the ceremony in Mabry Memorial Cafeteria.*







G. Smith

OVID S. VICKERS CONVOCATION  
MAY 6, 1995  
NOTES

- GOOD AFTERNOON LADIES AND GENTLEMEN.
- IT IS MY DISTINCT AND SPECIAL PRIVILEGE TO WELCOME ALL OF YOU TO THIS VERY SPECIAL AND HISTORICAL OCCASION.
- EACH OF YOU, INDEED IS A SPECIAL GUEST WITH A SPECIAL PURPOSE FOR BEING HERE THIS AFTERNOON.
- WE'RE GLAD YOU ARE ALL WITH US.
- PERHAPS THE HIGHEST HONOR THAT A PERSON CAN RECEIVE FROM THE COLLEGE AT WHICH HE<sup>she</sup> TEACHES OR ADMINISTERS IS TO HAVE A MAJOR FACILITY NAMED IN HIS<sup>her</sup> HONOR.
- SUCH HONORS ARE BESTOWED VERY SPARINGLY.
- DURING MY TEN (10) YEAR TENURE AT THIS INSTITUTION, ONLY TWO (2) BUILDINGS HAVE BEEN PREVIOUSLY NAMED FOR OUTSTANDING PEOPLE ASSOCIATED WITH EAST CENTRAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE.
  - THE BRACKEEN-WOOD PHYSICAL EDUCATION BUILDING NAMED FOR GENERAL DENVER BRACKEEN AND MISS LUCILLE WOOD, AND
  - THE BRADFORD J. TUCKER APPLIED TECHNOLOGY CENTER NAMED FOR DR. BRAD TUCKER, FORMER DEAN OF INSTRUCTION.
- TODAY, WE ADD AN ADDITIONAL HONOREE TO THIS LIST OF SIGNIFICANT HONORS AS WE COMMEMORATE THE NAMING OF THE OVID S. VICKERS FINE ARTS CENTER.
- AT THIS TIME, I WOULD LIKE TO ASK OUR SPECIAL HONOREE, MR. OVID S. VICKERS TO STAND AND BE RECOGNIZED.
- SPECIFIC COMMENDATIONS WILL BE PAID HIM IN A FEW MOMENTS.

- APPLAUSE

- AS WE INDICATED, ALL OF YOU ARE OUR SPECIAL GUESTS.
- WE WOULD, AT THIS TIME, LIKE TO ASK THAT SEVERAL GROUPS OF GUESTS STAND AND BE RECOGNIZED.
- FIRST, I WOULD LIKE TO ASK THE VICKERS FAMILY TO STAND AS THEY ARE INTRODUCED.
- PLEASE REMAIN STANDING UNTIL ALL OF THE FAMILY MEMBERS ARE RECOGNIZED.
- CAROL, OVID'S WIFE, WHO HERSELF IS A MOST VALUABLE MEMBER OF THE EAST CENTRAL FAMILY
- DAUGHTER, NONA CREEL - ATLANTA
- DAUGHTER, HARRIET - RAYMOND
- SON, OVID III - HATTIESBURG
- GRANDDAUGHTER - CAROL CREEL - ATLANTA
- SISTER, PAULINE WYNN - LA GRANGE, GEORGIA
- MOTHER-IN-LAW - MRS. ELSIE FARISH - STALLO
- OTHERS, MEMBERS OF THE VICKERS FAMILY.

- APPLAUSE

- THEN WE HAVE QUITE A LIST OF OTHER GUESTS WHOM WE WOULD LIKE TO RECOGNIZE AND TO ASK TO STAND BY GROUPS.
- PLEASE STAND AND REMAIN STANDING UNTIL ALL GROUPS ARE RECOGNIZED.



- MEMBERS OF THE EAST CENTRAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
- FORMER MEMBERS OF THE COLLEGE'S BOARD OF TRUSTEES
- MEMBERS OF THE DISTRICT BOARDS OF SUPERVISORS
- FORMER PRESIDENTS OF EAST CENTRAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE
- <sup>Former</sup> RETIRED FACULTY MEMBERS, ADM., & STAFF
- COUNTY GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS
- MEMBERS OF THE EAST CENTRAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE ALUMNI BOARD OF DIRECTORS
- MAYORS OF DISTRICT TOWNS
- DISTRICT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS AND PRESIDENTS
- LEADERSHIP NEWTON COUNTY CLASS MEMBERS
- APPLAUSE
- NEXT GROUP:
  - STATE BOARD FOR COMMUNITY AND JUNIOR COLLEGE BOARD MEMBERS
  - THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND PROFESSIONAL STAFF OF THE STATE BOARD FOR COMMUNITY AND JUNIOR COLLEGES
  - DISTRICT HIGH SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENTS AND PRINCIPALS
  - DISTRICT WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL MEMBERS, <sup>and</sup>
  - VO-TECH ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERS



- APPLAUSE
- NEXT GROUP:
- U.S. SENATORS AND CONGRESSMEN OR THEIR REPRESENTATIVES
- STATE LEGISLATORS
- STATE GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS
- COMMUNITY/JUNIOR COLLEGE PRESIDENTS
- UNIVERSITY PRESIDENTS AND THE COMMISSIONER OF HIGHER EDUCATION
- APPLAUSE
- FINALLY, I WOULD LIKE TO INTRODUCE A GROUP TO WHOM WE EXTEND A VERY, VERY WARM AND SPECIAL WELCOME.
- IF YOU WERE EVER TAUGHT IN THE CLASSROOM AT EAST CENTRAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE BY MR. OVID VICKERS, WOULD YOU PLEASE STAND.
- APPLAUSE
- *Now - IF you were a student of OVID VICKERS in 1955-56 - PLEASE STAND*
- *APPLAUSE*
- CERTAINLY, AGAIN, WE WELCOME YOU ALL.
- AT THIS TIME, WE WOULD LIKE TO CALL UPON THE REVEREND RICK BROOKS, PASTOR OF MR. VICKERS' CHURCH, THE DECATUR UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, TO LEAD THE INVOCATION.
- REV. BROOKS
- IN ADDITION TO THE COMMENTS THAT I WILL MAKE IN CONCLUSION, WE HAVE FOUR INDIVIDUALS WHO WILL SPEAK IN HONOR OF MR. OVID S. VICKERS.

- THE FIRST, MR. V. C. MANNING, VERY EFFECTIVELY SERVES AS CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF EAST CENTRAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE.
- MR. MANNING IS FROM NESHOPA COUNTY AND ALSO SERVES AS THE SUPERINTENDENT OF THE NESHOPA COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM.
- FOLLOWING HIM WILL BE A LONG-TIME COLLEAGUE OF OVID VICKERS AND THE PERSON WHO VERY CAPABLY CHAIRED THE COMMITTEE THAT MADE ALL OF THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR TODAY'S EVENTS, DR. RICHARD C. ETHRIDGE.
- DR. ETHRIDGE HAS BEEN ON THE FACULTY OF EAST CENTRAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE SINCE 1961.
- FOLLOWING DR. ETHRIDGE WILL BE DR. THOMAS RICHARDSON A MEMBER OF THE ENGLISH DEPARTMENT AT THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI.
- DR. RICHARDSON WAS ONE OF OVID VICKERS STUDENTS A FEW YEARS AGO.
- THEN DR. PHIL A. SUTPHIN, WHO IS DEAN OF INSTRUCTION AT THE COLLEGE, WILL DELIVER ADDITIONAL COMMENDATIONS.
- WE WILL ASK FOR EACH TO COME TO THE PODIUM IN THE ORDER PRESENTED.

#### CONCLUDING COMMENDATIONS

- SO MANY APPROPRIATE COMMENTS HAVE BEEN MADE ABOUT MR. VICKERS BY THOSE WHO HAVE PRECEDED ME.
- ALL HAVE ATTEMPTED TO CHARACTERIZE HIM AND TO COMMEND HIM FROM THEIR VARIOUS PERSPECTIVES.
- OVID VICKERS IS NOT AN EASY PERSON TO DESCRIBE OR CHARACTERIZE.
- HOWEVER, THESE ARE SOME OF MY OBSERVATIONS:



- HE IS A CHARACTER IN EVERY POSITIVE SENSE OF THE WORD.
- HE HAS BECOME A LEGEND AT EAST CENTRAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE.
- HE IS UNIQUELY TALENTED.
- ~~HE~~ IS A SCHOLAR.
- HIS SENSE OF HUMOR IS PRICELESS AND ENVIED BY ALL WHO EXPERIENCE IT.
- HE IS HIMSELF - AND THAT SUITS HIM AND OTHERS VERY, VERY WELL.
- HE'S MORAL, HE'S DECENT, AND HE'S GOOD.
- HE'S A TEACHER AND TEACHING SCHOOL IS WHAT HIS LIFE IS ALL ABOUT.
- THESE ARE SOME THINGS ABOUT OVID VICKERS, YET, AGAIN, THEY'RE NOT ADEQUATE TO PAINT THE PORTRAIT OF THE MAN.
- I AM REMINDED OF THE SONG FROM THE ALL-TIME FAVORITE MUSICAL BY ROGERS AND HAMMERSTEIN, THE SOUND OF MUSIC, WHEN THE NUNS OF THE ABBEY ATTEMPTED TO CHARACTERIZE THE EXCEPTIONAL AND UNDEFINABLE MARIA.
- THEY USED A WHOLE ARRAY OF DESCRIPTIVES YET CAME BACK TO THE QUESTION, "HOW DO YOU FIND A WORD THAT MEANS MARIA?"
- AND THEIR ANSWER TO THEMSELVES WAS IN ITSELF ANOTHER ILLUSIVE QUESTION: "HOW DO YOU HOLD A MOONBEAM IN YOUR HAND?"
- FOR 40 WONDERFULLY, WONDERFULLY EXCITING AND PRODUCTIVE YEARS, EAST CENTRAL JUNIOR COLLEGE/EAST CENTRAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE HAS HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO HOLD THAT "MOONBEAM IN OUR HANDS."
- LADIES AND GENTLEMEN LET US RECOGNIZE OUR DISTINGUISHED HONOREE, OVID SPARKS VICKERS.

(STANDING OVATION)

RESPONSE - MR. OVID S. VICKERS

- APPLAUSE/STANDING OVATION.
- THANK YOU, THANK YOU MR. VICKERS.
- FOLLOWING THE BENEDICTION TO BE GIVEN BY DR. RICHARD C. ETHRIDGE, WHO ALSO SERVES AS INTERIM PASTOR OF THE CLARKE-VENABLE BAPTIST CHURCH IN DECATUR, PLEASE FOLLOW THE RECESSIONAL TO THE FRONT OF THE OVID S. VICKERS FINE ARTS CENTER FOR THE FORMAL DEDICATION.
- THEN, A RECEPTION WILL BE HELD IN THE MAIN DINING ROOM OF THE MABRY MEMORIAL CAFETERIA FOR ALL OF OUR GUESTS. *ENTER THROUGH THE GOLDEN ROOM.*
- THE OVID S. VICKERS FINE ARTS CENTER WILL BE OPEN DURING THE AFTERNOON FOR THOSE WHO WOULD LIKE TO TOUR THE FACILITY.
- DR. ETHRIDGE

DEDICATION:

BY THE AUTHORITY VESTED IN ME BY THE LAWS OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI AND BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF EAST CENTRAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE IT IS MY DISTINCT PRIVILEGE AND HONOR TO PERMANENTLY PROCLAIM THE NAME OF THIS BUILDING, THE OVID S. VICKERS FINE ARTS CENTER.